

An enormous crowd of Mexicans, made up largely of Carranza soldiers, had surrounded the U. S. troops.

Previously there had been little shooting, which Tompkins thought were fired in welcome of Americans. He had been met by Lozango, who promised a welcome and a camping place. A non-commissioned officer dashed up to Tompkins and reported that the Americans had been fired on and a number of them wounded.

Tompkins asked Lozango for an explanation, but he seemed mystified, afterward asking Tompkins to get his men out of the city immediately. Lozango offered to guide Americans to safety, but Tompkins, fearing a trap formed a plan of his own.

A squad of 8 skirmishers were thrown out at head of retreating American columns, seeking to find an easy defense. Mobs grew larger. Rifle and pistol fire at Americans became incessant. Then followed the incident of the so-called Carranza guard on the hill and the reply of the Americans.

Tompkins retired to Santa Cruz, where he dug himself in and awaited reinforcements. These soon began to arrive from all directions, a command under Col. Allen making a phenomenal march to the scene. Col. Brown and Major Howze led other reinforcing detachments.

Washington, April 18.—Withdrawal of American forces from Mexico within the next month is likely.

Such action may be taken without accomplishing the original mandate, "Get Villa!" but the step will not be taken until the war department's order to break up Villa's band are fulfilled or until Carranzistas are fully able to take up the chase.

Columbus, N. M., April 18.—Thirty sick and wounded men were expected to arrive here today from Mexico by motor truck train. The wireless to the hospital corps did not state whether the wounded were all American soldiers or included some wounded Mexican prisoners.

BUCK CAN'T SEE TAKING AN OPINION FROM ETTELSON

Scant respect for the ability of Corporation Counsel Ettelson to give an impartial opinion when an action of the school board is the issue was expressed by Ald. Buck at a meeting of the judiciary committee today.

In buying a new school site in the 35th ward the school board disregarded the express order of the city council. In discussing the action of the board it was proposed that the corporation counsel be asked for an opinion as to how far the committee might proceed against the board. This brought Buck to his feet.

"Judging from opinions Mr. Ettelson has already given, it will be useless for this committee to ask him for an opinion which will favor council when the school board is concerned," said Buck. "It is settled in advance that his opinion would be that the council committee has no power to act against the school board."

TO THRESH OUT THE STRANGE PART OF SCHOOL SITES

Something strange about the school sites which the board of education intends to buy was discovered when the purchase of the grounds was reviewed by the school committee today.

Several cases where the school board intended to buy lots with buildings on while there were vacant lots next door were discovered.

The matter was put over until the next meeting of the council committee, when it will be threshed out and explained by the trustees and aldermen.

Donald Richberg, special att'y for council committee on gas litigation, appointed special ass't corporation counsel to committee on fire, schools, police and civil service in its investigation of finances of board of education.